

REMARKS

Claims 1, 12, 13, 30 and 33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 30 are amended and claims 2 and 5 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 30 may be found at least in paragraph [0020] of the specification, and claims 1 and 30 are amended to further clarify the subject matter being claimed. No new matter is added by the above amendments. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 12, 13, 30 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action alleges that claims 1 and 30 lack proper antecedent basis for the terms "ON-state," "grayscale data," "frame," "first sub-field periods," "sub-fields" and "period of the sub-fields selected." In regard to the terms "ON-state" and "frame," claims 1 and 30 are amended to address the rejections. Furthermore, in regard to the terms "first sub-field periods" and "sub-fields," Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claims 1 and 30 that further clarify the subject matter being claimed properly addresses the rejections. In regard to the phrase "period of the sub-fields selected," claims 1 and 30 are amended to recite, in part, "a period that the sub-fields are selected." Applicants respectfully submit that the above-recited amendment further clarifies the subject matter being claimed and properly addresses the rejection. However, in regard to the term "grayscale data," Applicants respectfully submit that no amendment is necessary because it is proper to recite the term grayscale data without use of "a" preceding the term.

The Office Action also alleges that claims 1 and 30 are incomplete for allegedly omitting essential structural relationships between the features of a frame period, first sub-

field period and second sub-field period. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claims 1 and 30 properly addresses this rejection by defining the relationship between the frame period, the plurality of sub-fields, the first and second groups of sub-fields and the first and second sub-field periods.

The Office Action further alleges that claims 1 and 30 are allegedly indefinite because of the term "substantially equal." Applicants respectfully submit that the term "substantially," as recited in claims 1 and 30 is a sufficiently definite use of relatively terminology. See MPEP 2173.05(b)(D).

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 12, 13, 30 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,483,492 (Takeuchi). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 30 are amended to recite, in part, "a switching circuit that switches to the ON-state a sub-field located between the first group of sub-fields and the second group of sub-fields, regardless of the level of grayscale, to supply a threshold voltage relating to driving the liquid crystal element." Applicants respectfully submit that the applied art reference does not disclose at least the above-recited features of independent claims 1 and 30.

Specifically, Takeuchi discloses a driving method in which an OFF signal is outputted in synchronization with reset periods and an ON signal is controlled so that the number of unit display cycles is increased or decreased depending on the gradation level (col. 43, lines 14-18). Takeuchi further discloses for higher gradation levels that the start timing of the ON signal is controlled so that the number of unit display cycles included together with at least one redundant display cycle is increased or decreased depending on the gradation level. (col. 43, lines 18-26; col. 43, lines 27-34; and col. 43, lines 35-42). Therefore, Takeuchi does

not disclose a driving method or driving device that includes at least the above-recited features of independent claims 1 and 30.

By this Amendment, claims 2 and 5 are cancelled. Therefore, the rejection of claims 2 and 5 is moot.

Claims 12 and 13 depend from claim 1 and claim 33 depends from claim 30. Therefore, claims 12, 13 and 33 are allowable at least for their dependency from claims 1 and 30, as well as for the additional features they recite.

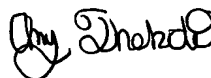
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

RCE Transmittal

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